

marker in kerosene. Public Sector OMCs have commenced introduction of marker in kerosene on all India basis with effect from 1.10.2006. Under the system, marker is being put in kerosene at all supply locations/depots/terminals. The system heralds the introduction of a world class technology to curb and eventually eliminate the menace of adulteration of transportation fuels along the supply chain. Through this measure, adulteration even with very small quantities of kerosene can be detected.

Resumption of excavations in Nalanda

*197. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is formulating a conceptual plan to resume excavations in Nalanda after a gap of two decades;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this time the ASI has asked the Hyderabad based National Remote Sensing Agency to conduct an aerial survey to determine the extent and influence of Nalanda and throw more precise hints of possible structure buried deep under the earth; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) would be undertaking excavations in Nalanda for formulating a conceptual plan of ancient Nalanda University.

(b) and (c) The ASI is collaborating with the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad for conducting Remote Sensing and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of an area of around 16 sq. km. in and around Nalanda with a view to determine extent and distribution pattern of ancient structures and to examine potential sites for further archaeological research and excavations. As a preliminary step, the ASI will carry out excavation at Juafurdih (district Nalanda) during 2006-07.